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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Marcotte et al.

Art Unit : 1631

Serial No. : 09/493,401

Examiner : Shubo Zhou, Ph.D.

Filed : January 28, 2000

Title : COMBINED COMPUTATIONAL METHODS FOR DETECTING PROTEIN
FUNCTION AND PROTEIN-PROTEIN INTERACTIONS FROM GENOME
SEQUENCES

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

Applicants submit this Response to the Office communication mailed on October 22, 2002. The initial deadline for filing a response is November 22, 2002. Accordingly, this Response is timely filed.

Also submitted with the response are a copy of the formal drawings and a postcard. Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced by the submission of the drawings.

REMARKS

At the outset, the undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for his time and assistance in the prosecution of the instant application, most recently a telephonic interview held on November 15, 2002.

The Office communication alleges that since Applicants had received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention of claims 1-2, this invention had been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Thus, the Patent Office alleges that that newly presented independent claim 3, drawn to a method that comprises distinct steps from the originally presented claims and produce distinct results, is an independent/separate invention from the originally presented claims.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.

November 21, 2002

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